1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Himachal Pradesh .	230	88	663	82	4345	3230	31-12-93
Jammu & Kasmir .	41	9	10	—	2470	422	30-6-93
Karnataka . . .	875	394	976	445	14411	5067	30-6-93
Kerala. . . .	1168	570	1393	304	36997	20953	30-9-93
Madhya Pradesh .	299	236	987	217	21507	11687	30-9-93
Maharashtra . .	1785	925	2309	867	33553	21412	31-12-93
Manipur . . .	2	1	9	4	395	373	30-6-93
Meghalya . . .	5	4	1	1	8	2	31-12-93
mizoram . . .	—	—	—	—	96	76	30-9-93
Nagaland . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orissa	1167	645	849	270	7805	4334	31-12-93
Punjab . . .	329	210	288	312	10651	6831	31-12-93
Rajasthan . . .	767	537	2080	1162	42179	29646	31-12-93
Sikkim . . .	1	1	—	—	8	5	31-12-93
Tamil Nadu. . .	568	210	178	170	9202	2508	31-12-93
Tripura . . .	35	28	37	28	254	158	31-12-93
Uttar Pradesh . .	1178	541	3439	1884	43277	25179	31-3-93
West Bengal . .	1458	201	396	162	12474	2635	30-9-93
Andaman & Nicobar .	3	1	2	—	62	63	30-6-93
Chandigarh . . .	507	198	223	130	4586	1818	31-12-93
D & N Haveli . .	—	—	—	—	12	2	31-12-93
Daman & Diu . .	—	—	—	—	12	4	31-12-93
Delhi	1931	990	1182	596	19466	12302	31-12-93
Laksha dweep . .	—	—	1	1	13	11	30-9-93
Pondicherry . .	42	37	136	115	674	604	31-12-93
TOTAL : . . .	16190	7496	20472	10014	374510	221131	

Import of Essential Commodities to hold Price line

5238. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has held out a threat of importing essential commodities to held the price line if the traders continued to indulge in hoarding the essential commodities;

(b) if so, whether the prices of essential commodities have risen high and if so, details thereof and if not, the reasons for holding out the threat;

(c) whether less quota of sugar has been released during April, 1994 in the open market for sale to the public consequent to which the prices of sugar have gone high; and

(d) if so, how much quantity of sugar has been released to the month of April 1994 and to what extent it is short of the sugar released in January, February and March, 1994 giving the reasons for the less release of sugar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) During last few weeks,

the rate of inflation in the country has shown rising trend. In order to contain further rise in the prices of essential commodities, the Minister for Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution had requested the manufacturers, wholesale dealers, traders etc. not to create conditions of shortage and undue increase in prices. The State Governments have been requested to take stern action against hoarders, black marketeers and those who indulge in unfair trade practices.

(b) The wholesale price indices of selected essential commodities and their percentage variation during the months of Jan. 94, Feb. 94 and March, 94 are shown in the Annexure.

(c) A quantity of 5.40 lakh tonnes of sugar was released during April, 94 in the open market as compared to 6 lakh tonnes released during the month of March, 94. The price trend of sugar available upto 27th April, 1994 shows marginal rise in the open market prices,

(d) the quantity of sugar released for freesale in the open market since January, 1994 is given as under :—

Annexure

(Qty. in lakhs tonnes)

Month	Qty of sugar released for freesale in the open market
January, 94	5.75
February, 94	5.65
March, 94	6.00
April, 94	5.40

Lower quantity of sugar has been released in the open market due to fall in sugar production during the last as well as the current seasons as also owing to the expected availability of imported sugar which hat been placed under OGL (duty free) since March, 1994.

Statement

Wholesale Price Index Numbers and percentage Variation of Selected Essential Commodities during the month of January, 94, Feb., 94 and March, 1994

Commodity	Wholesale Price Index Numbers (base 1981-82=100)				Monthly percentage variation		
	Weight in WPI	Jan. 1994	Feb. 1994	March 1994	Feb. 94 Jan. 94	March 94 Feb. 94	March 94 Jan. 94
Rice	3.69	265.6	269.2	268.6	+1.4	—0.2	+1.1
Wheat	2.25	261.3	283.7	281.4	+8.6	—0.8	+7.7
Gram	0.41	406.6	419.1	367.7	—3.1	—12.3	—9.6
Arhar	0.27	346.2	335.1	333.9	—3.2	—0.4	—3.6
Potatoes	0.47	258.2	205.6	210.3	—20.4	+2.3	—18.6
Onions	0.16	460.7	306.9	257.2	—33.4	—16.2	—44.2
Tea	0.56	364.4	364.7	362.7	+0.1	—0.5	—0.5
Sugar	2.01	214.9	226.3	227.7	+5.3	—0.6	+6.0
Salt	0.04	236.5	236.5	236.5	Steady	Steady	Steady
Vanaspati	0.52	238.3	237.6	238.1	—0.3	+0.2	—0.1
Mustard Oil	0.28	222.3	214.0	210.5	—3.7	—1.6	—5.3
Groundnut Oil	0.53	227.4	226.5	228.9	—0.4	+1.1	+0.7
All Commodities	100.00	252.7	252.9	2555.5	+0.1	+1.0	+1.1